



**JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Director and Health Officer

**JONATHAN E. FREEDMAN**  
Chief Deputy Director

313 North Figueroa Street, Room 806  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
TEL (213) 240-8117 • FAX (213) 975-1273

[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov)



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May 9, 2011

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM : Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J. Fielding*  
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **MEETINGS ON PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO PUBLIC HEALTH PERMIT FEES  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-12**

At the April 19, 2011 Board meeting, the Department of Public Health was instructed to meet with impacted entities regarding proposed changes in annual public health permit fees.

On April 26, 2011, DPH staff met with members of the California Apartment Association and the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles. On April 27, 2011, and May 6, 2011, staff met with representatives of the California Restaurant Association, the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA), and the Central City Association. The May 6, 2011 meeting also included the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, DPH convened two public meetings on May 3 and 4, 2011 (see attached list of invitees who were notified via direct mail, e-mail, and web posting). Attendees included members of Film LA, the Food Industry Business Roundtable (FIBR), and operators from the catering, restaurant, and mobile food vehicle industries.

During the five meetings of the following concerns and suggestions were offered:

1. Economic Impact: Several attendees commented on the current economic crisis and the extent to which operators would be impacted by the proposed fee increases. This concern is exacerbated by the relatively short notice that fee payers would receive, and the penalties they may incur due to their inability to pay on time.

Response: DPH is conferring with the Treasurer-Tax Collector on the feasibility of extending the standard payment period to assist fee payers in avoiding penalties for late payment.

2. Basis for the proposed revised public health fees: Several attendees requested more specific information on County costs and how the proposed fees were determined. Representatives of

the restaurant associations stated this information was needed to ensure that DPH's costs are reasonable, and to properly inform their membership.

Response: In response to requests, DPH provided copies of the documents "*Analysis of Environmental Health Permit and Service Fees, March 7, 2011*" and "*Fee Development Special Study, Report of Findings, August 2010.*"

3. Other Issues: Several meeting attendees indicated desire to have further discussions with DPH about incentives, consistency in application of regulations, industry input in policy changes, inspector conduct, and timeliness of plan check review and approvals.

Response: DPH is committed to continuing to work with industries on the issues identified during the meetings but unrelated to the proposed fees.

Attached is a list of entities notified of the proposed fee changes.

We will provide a report back to the Board on the progress of these actions during the next 60 days. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please let me know.

JEF:ajb

Attachment

**LIST OF ASSOCIATIONS RECEIVING NOTIFICATION OF MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> AND MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>  
MEETINGS ON PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT TO PUBLIC HEALTH FEES**

**Food Facilities**

- California Restaurant Association
- Food Safety Advisory Council
- Korean Restaurant Association
- California Grocers Association
- California Independent Grocers Association
- California Retailers Association
- California Beverage Retailers Association (CBRA)
- Southern California Mobile Food Vendors
- La Asociacion de Loncheros
- Food Industry Business Roundtable

**Private Schools**

- Archdiocese of Los Angeles
- California Association of Independent Schools

**Housing**

- Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles
- California Apartment Association, Los Angeles Chapter
- California Hotel and Lodging Association
- California Association of Homeowners Associations, Inc.
- Community Associations Institute (CAI) - Greater Los Angeles Chapter

**General Business**

- LA Area Chamber of Commerce
- West LA Chamber of Commerce
- California Small Business Association
- Central City Association
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association

**Solid Waste Facilities**

- LA County Solid Waste Management Committee
- Los Angeles County Disposal Association
- County Public Works
- County Sanitation District
- California Waste Association

**Recycled Water and Small Water Systems**

- City of Pomona
- Las Virgenes Water District
- West Basin Water District
- LA DWP
- Central Basin Water District
- Westside Park Mutual Water Company